

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 198  
By Haley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Clark Porteous.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Clark Porteous; and

WHEREAS, Clark Porteous was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, born in New Orleans on July 10, 1910, Clark Porteous was widely known as one of the greatest journalists in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, Clark Porteous was raised in Laurel, Mississippi, and he graduated from Laurel High School, where he excelled in track; and

WHEREAS, he then won a scholarship and graduated from Southwestern University in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from Southwestern, Clark Porteous was hired by Memphis Press Scimitar Editor Ed Meeman on June 8, 1934; and

WHEREAS, Clark Porteous proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after discharge from the Army, Clark Porteous spent one year at Harvard University as a Neiman Fellow; and

WHEREAS, throughout his meritorious career in the newspaper business, Clark Porteous has covered many important events that have marked our nation's history, such as the

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Civil Rights Movement, where he covered the Emmitt Till case and the registration of James Meredith as a student at Ole Miss; and; and

WHEREAS, during his long, productive tenure, Clark Porteus has been fortunate to interview many celebrities, including Huey Long, Eleanor Roosevelt, Nancy Reagan, Rosalyn Carter, President George Bush and President Gerald Ford; and

WHEREAS, he also wrote obituaries for legends such as Elvis Presley and Mayor E.H. Crump; and

WHEREAS, after 47 meritorious years at the Memphis Press Scimitar, Clark Porteous retired, only to find himself one month later coming out of retirement to become the Editor for the Collierville Herald; and

WHEREAS, after The Collierville Herald was sold, Mr. Porteous remained at the paper as associate editor; and

WHEREAS, Clark Porteous has been the recipient of numerous accolades and rewards, including the Shelby County Award of Merit as well as an honorary Shelby County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the city of Collierville, The Herald and the chamber of commerce honored Clark Porteous with "Clark Porteous Day" in honor of his 80th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Clark Porteous' former Editor, the late Ed Meeman said of Porteous that, "the work of a newspaper man like Clark Porteous does more for 'the people's right to know' and the 'freedom of the press' than scads of editorials on the subject"; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Clark Porteous leaves behind will be long remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Clark Porteous enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife Margaret Clay Mack Porteous; he was the proud father of Catherine Porteous Sutton, John Porteous, David Porteous and Thomas Porteous; and the grandfather of five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to honor the extraordinary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Clark Porteous, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Clark Porteous.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.